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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/589,716

04/03/2008

Ruediger Freitag

3836

9966

278

7590

04/28/2009

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EXAMINER

GANEY, STEVEN J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3752

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/28/2009

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/589,716	<b>Applicant(s)</b> FREITAG ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> STEVEN J. GANEY	<b>Art Unit</b> 3752	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |                                                                                        |                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/17/06, 12/22/08</u> .                                       | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Objections***

1. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: In line 3, the phrase "the first fire protection barrier" should be changed to --a first fire protection barrier-- to provide proper antecedent basis. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sundholm '309.

Sundholm '309 discloses a fire protection system comprising a fire protection glass pane fire door 14a/14b; fire activated water spray system with outlet nozzles 7 on both sides of the fire protection glass pane, which applies a curtain-like water spray haze in front of the glass pane and which partially wets the glass pane, except for the glass pane being a fire-risk category E. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a glass pane with a fire-risk category E rating since the door is being used as a fire resistant door to provide a fire protection barrier and would depend on the fire resistance rating desired for the barrier.

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As to claim 5, and the distance between the nozzles and the fire protection glass pane, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the nozzles at the claimed distance range from the glass pane since it has been held that if one skilled in the art can discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation, where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, the differences between the claimed invention and the prior art may not be patentable differences. In *re Aller*, 220 F.2d 454,456 105 USPQ 233,235 (CCPA 1955).

As to claim 8, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide droplets of less than 200 microns, since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. In *re Boesch*, 617 F.d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980). In addition, it is well known in the fire protection art that water sprays with smaller droplet sizes have higher heat absorption rates which facilitates cooling.

As to claim 9, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the water spray system designed as a high-pressure water spray system with pressures from 10 to 200, since it has been held that if one skilled in the art can discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation, where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, the differences between the claimed invention and the prior art may not be patentable differences. In *re Aller*, 220 F.2d 454,456 105 USPQ 233,235 (CCPA 1955).

As to claims 10-14, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide glass panes composed of the materials claimed, since

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it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. In re Leshin, 125 USPQ 416.

As to claim 17, It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a double door with a transom light depending on the size of the opening provided and desired to be protected.

### ***Conclusion***

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Thompson, Renard, Miller, Van Lingen and Sundholm '160 show various types of water spray systems for protecting barriers and other types of openings.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to STEVEN J. GANEY whose telephone number is (571)272-4899. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-5:00; Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Len Tran can be reached on 571-272-1184. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Steven J. Ganey/  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3752

sjg